

SUPPORTING FY23 OMNIBUS

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2023.

I want to thank Chair DELAUNO for her tireless work to finish this legislation—she deserves great credit.

As Chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, I marked up the House Defense bill to President Biden's original request of \$761.7 billion.

I felt his number was an appropriate level of funding for our national security.

While I agree that we must make adjustments based on inflation and other global events, I am disappointed in the Senate's insistence on increasing defense spending at the expense of domestic priorities.

We must realize that our national security is not defined by defense dollars alone—we damage our national security when we don't adequately address the needs of the American people: in education, health care, and other critical investments here at home.

Turning to the Defense bill—for Fiscal Year 2023 we provide \$797.7 billion, \$69.3 billion above the 2022 enacted level.

We know that all Americans are struggling with higher prices—and that includes our men and women in uniform—so we have prioritized investing in our most important national security asset, our service members and their families.

This Defense bill puts people first—by including:

A 4.6 percent pay raise for our service members;

And an increase of 11 percent to the Basic Allowance for Housing, and the Basic Allowance for Subsistence—which will help offset the cost of rising rent and food prices.

I am very proud that this bill also invests in:

Confronting the climate crisis—with more than \$2 billion in clean energy programs and funding to add resilience to DoD installations from the impacts of climate change.

Over \$39 billion for Defense Health and medical research, including over \$582 million for cancer research.

And \$1.6 billion in Environmental Restoration programs, including over \$250 million for PFOS remediation and disposal research.

This bill also continues our commitment to helping the Ukrainian people defend their democracy against Russian aggression by providing robust funding for the Ukraine Security Initiative and other NATO allies and partners in Europe.

The time has come for Congress to finish our work, pass this omnibus, and fund the entire federal government.

DECLARING ARCHIVED RECORDS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC USE

HON. DEREK KILMER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, I wish to include in the RECORD a letter Vice Chair WILLIAM TIMMONS and I sent on December 22 to the Acting Archivist of the United States. The letter communicates our committee's designation of all records that the Archivist receives for archiving, as our committee draws to a close, as available for public use.

This letter takes an important step towards the kind of openness that the Modernization Committee has championed as part of our over 200 recommendations and over 40 hearings held since the beginning of the 116th Congress to make the institution more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people. Having our records available for public use will also aid future reform committees, researchers, and the public alike to advance the cause of modernization going forward.

I ask my colleagues to join me in taking this important step towards recognizing the value of transparency and the legacy of the Modernization Committee.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, DC, December 22, 2022.

MS. DEBRA STEIDEL WALL,
Acting Archivist of the United States, The United States National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC.

DEAR MS. WALL: As Chair and Vice Chair of the Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress ("Modernization Committee"), we are writing to let you know that we consider any and all Modernization Committee records that you receive from the Office of the Clerk for purposes of archiving to be available for public use, in accordance with Clause 3 of House Rule VII.

Established in the 116th Congress and extended through the 117th Congress, the Modernization Committee has been tasked to investigate, study, make findings, hold public hearings, and develop recommendations to make Congress more effective, efficient, and transparent on behalf of the American people. To this end, we have issued over 200 recommendations and held over 40 hearings over the last four years to improve the day-to-day functioning of the House.

A pillar of the Modernization Committee's work has been to enhance the transparency of the House and of the legislative process. As such, we believe it is important to make our archived materials available for the public as soon as possible.

In addition, one of our final recommendations was that the House "should authorize a Modernization Select Committee at least every fourth Congress." If the House implements this recommendation, a future select committee would benefit tremendously from having our records and analyses at its immediate disposal, as these documents collectively constitute a wealth of information about our work and the issues that our members and staff discussed.

Absent a committee order, we understand our archived records would remain sealed for up to 30 years by default under Rule VII. For

the above reasons, though, we wish to make you aware that, should you receive requests from other committees or interested parties, we consider the records reserved from our committee for archiving to be available for public use. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

DEREK KILMER,
Member of Congress.

WILLIAM R. TIMMONS IV,
Member of Congress.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF
SEWA INTERNATIONAL USA

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 23, 2022

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of the thousands of Sewa International USA employees to assist underserved communities around the world throughout the Coronavirus pandemic.

Sewa International USA was founded in 2003 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit charity organization. Comprised of 43 chapters with more than 5,000 volunteers across the country, Sewa workers take inspiration from the Hindu principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam—meaning "the whole world is one family"—and Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah—meaning "may all be happy." These complementary outlooks have driven volunteers to serve humanity in times of distress.

This service takes many forms. Sewa volunteers work with local communities to coordinate developmental projects and mobilize partners, donors, and on-the-ground volunteers to make meaningful changes in the face of disaster. Sewa has organized volunteer service in the wake of 30 disasters over the last two decades, including the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Hurricane Harvey in 2017, and the California wildfires in 2019 and 2020. Internationally, they have assisted after some of the world's greatest crises in recent memory, from Haiti's 2012 earthquake to Pakistan's 2013 flooding to the evacuation efforts from ongoing war in Ukraine.

As Russia's invasion of Ukraine rages on, Sewa International volunteers are conducting massive evacuation efforts to help thousands of students escape the violence. Their erroneous network has been invaluable in the last few years, providing \$15 million worth of food, PPE, and medical supplies to those in need. Regardless of the type of crisis, Sewa International always finds meaningful ways to help.

Without regard for race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or nationality, Sewa International USA has done tremendous work to ameliorate the effects of some of the world's greatest disasters. Hundreds of thousands of people benefit from their work every year, and I am proud to represent some of these volunteers in Congress. These volunteers work tirelessly across the globe to aid those who are most vulnerable, and it is no surprise that they are one of the seven key trusted partners of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in commending the extraordinary service of Sewa International USA and their thousands of volunteers. Their work over the last two decades has been invaluable in recovery